

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were examined in the Final Office Action mailed September 3, 2009, while claims 10-15 stand withdrawn pursuant to election/restriction requirement.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,311,704 to Foster ("Foster"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,878 to Ootoshi *et al.* ("Ootoshi").

The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's helpful remarks in the Response to Arguments section, noting that the claims do not limit the apparatus to encompassing the entire gas turbine. In view of these remarks, the Applicant is requesting entry of amendments to claim 1 and withdrawn claim 10 to recite that in the method "a gas turbine is, before being disassembled, placed entirely within a first apparatus" (claim 1; claim 10 similar). For the reasons set forth in the Applicant's May 27, 2009 response, the Foster and Ootoshi references do not teach or suggest the invention which would be recited in amended claim 1.

In view of the previous searches performed by the Examiner and the clarifying nature of the requested amendments to claims 1 and 10, the Applicant submits that the requested amendments may be entered without the need for further searching in order to permit allowance of the case. Accordingly, entry of the requested amendments and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

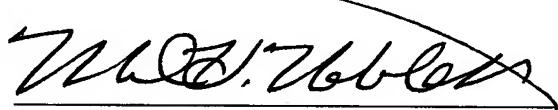
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If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #011235.55725US).

Respectfully submitted,

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